

## **FISH AND GAME COMMISSION MEETING**

**Public Hearing 7:00 p.m. Wed., Dec. 3, 2003**

### **Fisheries Research Facility, Nampa, ID**

Commissioners Hadley, Irby, Watts, Wood, Gibbs, Wheeler, Burns, attending, along with 29 members of the public.

1. Cherie Barton, Boise, Idaho Wildlife Federation president. Supporting Access Yes program, complimentary of the first-year effort, property selection process, regional sportsmen committees. Sees adequate funding as a major problem for the program. IWF does not support tag auction but does support lottery tags. Program should expand gradually.
2. Jack Fisher, Nampa, for Carl Rey, for the Sportsmen's Advisory Committee. Supports the 40 lottery tags they originally proposed, acceptance of donations through license checkoff, put proceeds in a dedicated account. Reads a letter from Kent Marlor on LAP proposing that if applicants exceeds the number of permits available by 25 % the permit number be automatically increased; and that leftover permits in general LAP hunts be made available to the general public as leftover tags and that 15 should be the maximum number of LAP permits a landowner can get no matter how much land he/she owns. Reads another letter from Kent Marlor supporting a LAP program for landowners with less than 640 acres and also very large landowners. Committee would like to have till Feb. 2004 to work on solutions to these issues.
3. Bob Minter, Boise, Ada County Fish and Game League. Supporting Access Yes funded by a fee increase. Supports continuation and expansion of the program.
4. Tom Judge, Boise, Idaho State Bowhunters, in support of Access Yes but not sale of auction or lottery tags. Fee increase or user fee is the best funding method.
5. Brad Moss, Boise in support of Access Yes and in support of auction tags and lottery tags, who would also support a fee increase to build a whole funding package. Would like to have "coffee meetings" with the commission to discuss issues.
6. Russ Heughins, Boise, Idaho Bird Hunters president, in support of Access Yes and in support of funding by fee increase or user fee validation. IBH members would support at least a \$5 user fee. Also supports regular meetings with the local commissioner.
7. Jim Hagedorn, Viola, Concerned Sportsmen of Idaho and Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife wanting more elk calf recruitment in the Clearwater Region and more predator removal. Wants seasons shortened in units 10, 10A and 12 or closed for a few years. Both groups support "Choose your weapon." In support of access yes but needs very careful management and oversight.
8. Don Beuhler, presented by Brad Compton. Buehler is a SE region landowner who took part in Access Yes this year, mostly for upland birds but also having some big game and fishing. Allowed 215+ hunters and regards it as a very positive experience for his family and ranch. Enjoyed meeting the people who came to

- hunt. Does not think habitat projects should be a form of compensation to landowners.
9. Dick Rogers, Boise. Concerned about loss of access over the years, especially on WMAs. Is an environmental engineer who thinks nutrients should be taken out of Cascade as well as the trash fish. Supports the Cascade drawdown.
  10. Blair Kauer, McFarland Livestock, Salmon Regions. More than 95 hunters asked for access, he got more than five calls per day due to info on the FG website. We appreciate the institution of this program and there will need to be large consideration for funding. More than 50 hunters he interviewed would support a \$5 fee increase. Habitat projects should not be incentive for landowners. Landowners should be able to put in place some hunting restrictions. Onroad use only of ATVs. Was not open to hunting in prior years.
  11. Mark Bell, Nampa, Snake River Chap. National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), opposing the use of rifles to hunt wild turkeys, citing safety.
  12. Charles Henry, Eagle, Pres. Idaho Chap. NWTF, opposing the use of rifles to hunt wild turkeys, citing safety concerns.
  13. Derrek Batson, Nampa, Gem State Chapter NWTF, opposing the use of rifles to hunt wild turkeys, citing safety concerns. Supporting youth hunts and wants more of them and would like to see some youth tags in the controlled hunt in Unit 38. Feels any funds from super tags should go back to that species, not an access program, even though he supports more access.
  14. Larry Lombard, Idaho State Chapter NWTF, opposing the use of rifles to hunt wild turkeys, citing safety and ethical concerns. Supports youth hunts where the mentor does not hunt
  15. Lee Cotter, Meridian, opposing the use of rifles to hunt wild turkeys, citing safety and ethical concerns.
  16. Tom Demorest, Diamond D Ranch in Unit 27 southeast corner. Another good year for deer and elk hunting, thanks to eliminating the spike hunt and the eliminating cow hunts in Sept. this has been a good year for calf recruitment. It has been the same situation with mule deer. Would like things to stay the way they are.
  17. Charles Robbins, Boise. An outfitter who is concerned about development in the Hailey area which is causing lack of access. Hopefully Access Yes will help make up for that. Thinks access could be improved if FG and the Forest Service would work more closely together.
  18. Doug Hawley, NWTF parent of a 9-year-old who opposes use of rifles to hunt wild turkeys, citing safety and ethical concerns.
  19. Chuck Middleton, NWTF, opposing the use of rifles to hunt wild turkeys, citing safety and ethical concerns. Supports youth hunts where the mentor does not hunt. If Access Yes goes to auction, there should be minimum dollar amounts or the tag is not issued. Likes both auction and lottery the way Oregon does it.
  20. commissioner Wheeler asks if anyone in the audience would oppose a dollar or two fee increase to fund access yes and no one would.